



AREA

FORM NO.

C

210

Town Acton

Address 285 Arlington Street

Historic Name Isaac Davis Birthplace

Use: Present single family residential

Original single family residential

DESCRIPTION

Date circa 1835

Source Nylander research

Style Federal /Greek Revival

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric clapboards

Outbuildings attached barn (see reverse)

Major Alterations (with dates)

see reverse

Condition Good

Moved no Date

Acreage less tha one acre

Setting On a slight rise across from

a group of late 19th century houses on

this residential street adjacent to

West Acton village.

Recorded by Schuler and Johnson

Organization Acton Historical Commissio

Date March 1990

Indicate north

F-2A-84

MASS AVE

ARLINGTON

CENTRAL

UTM REFERENCE

USGS QUADRANGLE

SCALE

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.

See Inventory Continuation Form

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.

See Inventory Continuation Form

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Nylander research
AHS Files/ Vital Records
Directories: 1883; 1902; 1913; 1926.
Phalen, History of the Town of Acton; Fletcher, Acton in History.
Hager, Boxborough: A New England Town and Its People.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: ACTON	Form No: C -
Property Name: 285 Arlington Street	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

285 ARLINGTON STREET (ISAAC DAVIS BIRTHPLACE) / ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

The house at 285 Arlington Street is a transitional Federal/Greek Revival style farmhouse with several late 19th century additions. The 2 1/2 story five bay residence has a gable-roof, twin rear chimneys, a granite foundation and is sheathed in clapboards. Sited on a slight rise, with a fieldstone wall and terrace traversing the site, the house has its long facade to the street. The building consists of the main five-bay block, a two story rear addition, a side ell, and connecting shed and barn attached at the south end.

The symmetrical five-bay facade (east) is trimmed with a narrow frieze, corner boards and sill molding. Granite steps lead to the central entrance containing a replacement paneled wood door bordered by Greek Revival style 3/4 sidelights within a plain enframement; an Italianate style flat-roof door hood, supported by carved brackets, was added circa 1870. First and second story windows, with the exception of two 1/1 replacements, are 2/2 sash in plain enframents with slightly projecting lintels. The north gable end has narrow returns and a 6/6 window in the peak; two 2/2 windows line the first and second stories. Behind this is a two story rear addition with paired windows on the first level, and two single 2/2s above.

The south gable end is identical to the north end with a two story gable-roof ell, attached to the rear wall, extending south. The four-bay ell is trimmed with narrow corner boards and a very narrow cornice. The main facade is lined with unevenly arranged 6/6 windows and a paneled door entrance in a simple enframement, on the first level, with one 1/1 window and two 6/6 on the second story. All windows have plain surrounds. Attached to the ell is a long low gable-roof shed, eight bays long. The shed is lined by alternating 6/6 windows, three types of paneled doors, and a large vertical board sliding storage door.

The shed is connected to a commodious gable-roof barn, built into the side of the hill on a fieldstone foundation. The gable ends have slight overhangs and two vacant window openings in the peak. The north gable-end facade contains a small entrance door and a vertical board sliding barn door with a multi-light transom. The street facade (east) has sliding barn doors at the basement level and two small deeply set windows above. The south gable facade has two 6/6 windows over a hinged vertical board barn door opening.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

